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regretted that too few authors appreciate the fact that a little extra labor in this direction is more than compensated for by the increased value which it gives to their work.

T. J. G.

TRADE UNION LAW AND CASES: A TEXT-BOOK RELATING TO TRADE UNIONS AND TO LABOR. By HERMAN COHEN, Barrister, and GEORGE HOWELL, F. S. S. London: Sweet & Maxwell, Limited.

This book will, we doubt not, be of great use to English workmen and lawyers, while to everyone else it will prove decidedly interesting. The work consists of an introduction in which Mr. George Howell, the well-known sociologist, briefly reviews the legislative history of British trade unions from the repeal of the "Combination Laws," in 1824, until the passage of the "Conciliation Act," in 1896. Following this introduction is the text of all the Acts of Parliament affecting Trade Unions, from the "Trade Union Act," of 1871, till the present day. This text has been carefully annotated, by Herman Cohen, Esq., of the Inner Temple, with notes of and comments upon all judicial decisions decisive or explanatory of the same. The "Appendix" contains a full set of forms prescribed by the English law for the use of unions in complying with the provisions of the "Union Acts" for a system of registration and governmental supervision. It may not be out of place to note here some facts regarding the legal history of English unions gathered from Mr. Howell's excellent introduction (see pp. 1-47).

Until the repeal of the "Combination Laws" in 1824, trade unions were illegal in Great Britain, one of their purposes, that of instituting and maintaining strikes being held to be "in restraint of trade." Mr. Howell points out that even while the "Combination Laws," were in force "Restraint of Trade" was legal and had been for centuries, first, under the old Guild Ordinances and later under the Statute of Laborers and subsequent legislative enactments. After 1824-25, however, trade unions were permitted to exist, though totally unprotected, as to their funds and investments, which were entirely at the mercy of unscrupulous and untrustworthy officials. So serious a defect was this felt to be that English labor leaders employed all their energies for years to remedy it, but without effect, till in 1868 they succeeded in passing what is known as the "Recorder's Act" as a "rider" to the Hon. Russell Gurney's "Co-Partnership Bill." This act provided for the criminal prosecution of defaulting union officials, but afforded no means for the recovery of misapplied property or embezzled funds.

Ample relief was, however, obtained by the passage of the so-

called "Trade Union Acts" of 1871-76, which together form the Magna Charta of the British workingman. These wise and salutary laws permit freely the formation of unions and secure to them complete protection, both in the criminal and civil court, exacting in return compliance with certain requirements as to registration and supervision, which place them in relation to the Home Office in a situation somewhat analogous to that occupied by our own National Banks towards the Comptroller of the Currency. Thus, while the violent tendencies of the professional agitator are curbed with a firm hand, a policy of dignified resistance against oppression is wisely fostered. Furthermore, the benevolent purposes of unions, *e. g.*, the relief of sick, aged, unemployed and injured members are promoted by these and subsequent acts, notably "The Trade Union (Provident Funds) Act of 1893," by which all moneys devoted to such purposes are made exempt from the income tax.

Finally after commenting upon several labor laws of secondary importance, Mr. Howell concludes with a brief summary of the "Conciliation Act of 1896," by which the Board of Trade is empowered to appoint arbitrators to settle labor disputes upon the application of both or even of one of the parties. This last law may be regarded as the natural result of the salutary enactments which have preceded it and under the benign influence of the body of statutes just mentioned the future of organized labor in Great Britain looks bright indeed. The authors of this work are to be sincerely congratulated upon the care and accuracy with which they have written it and also upon the fact that by a judicious treatment of their subject and a facile and fluent style of composition they have made a book which anyone not a lawyer or a sociologist, would expect to find tedious and technical, of vivid interest to readers of all classes.

T. J. G.

ROMAN LAW. By W. H. H. KELKE. London; Sweet & Maxwell.

To the common law lawyer the Roman or Civil law will always possess a peculiar fascination for therein he can discover the genesis of many a well-known doctrine of his own jurisprudence. We think, therefore, that all lawyers, whether of France or England, Pennsylvania or Louisiana will welcome the publication of Mr. Kelke's little book because of the opportunity thus afforded them to obtain a general knowledge of the principles of Roman law with the least possible expenditure of time and trouble. In short, this book is the kernel without the shell and since, so far as we are concerned, our interest in the subject is mainly of an academic nature, the absence of detail, which